



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

May 7, 2001

TO: Washington State Board of Health
FROM: Craig McLaughlin
Senior Health Manager
RE: STATUS REPORT ON RESEARCH TO INFORM PRIORITY SETTING

Summary

Work is proceeding well on research that will inform Board efforts to set priorities for 2001-03. The research has three components: (1) review recently published studies and surveys; (2) interview key informants; and (3) post a survey form on the Board's Web site that will allow anyone who visits the site to provide input. A full report on the findings will be available in advance of the June 13 meeting so the findings can assist the Board during its deliberations in July.

Discussion

Survey of surveys: In consultation with other Board staff members and key personnel at the Department of Health, I assembled more than 40 print and electronic documents—data books, studies, reports, health assessments, news clippings, and public opinion polls—that will provide information about health trends, emerging science, and current public opinion. I listed the studies in a memo that is currently being reviewed by Jack Thompson, director of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice. Mr. Thompson and the center's staff will make suggestions about documents not on the current list that should be included. Both Doreen Garcia and I have reviewed the materials on hand. A copy of the memo is attached.

Key informant interviews: The staff assembled a list of 52 key informants that included members of Congress; the leadership of the Legislature's health, environment and fiscal committees; legislative and gubernatorial policy staff; agency directors; representatives from professional, industry, and government associations; directors of advocacy groups; and more. Staff have completed approximately 20 of those interviews. The list of key informants that staff have or will interview is attached. We also contracted with the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice to interview 15 academic leaders in medicine and public health. Those interviews are done. People interviewed by Board staff and NWCPHP consistently said how much they appreciated being consulted. Finally, we have contracted with Laurie Garrett, author of *Betrayal of Trust*, to respond in writing to a set of questions based on the key informant interview.

Web survey form: The Web survey form was posted April 1. To date we have received seven responses.

Summary report: The summary report distributed in advance of the June 13 meeting will include sections about the three stages of this research but it will also be iterative. It will seek to identify patterns across all three stages—for example, points where public opinion, legislative interest, health trends, economic forces, and emerging science converge to create opportunities. Given the scale of this research effort—asking more than 70 influencers what they think are the important policy issues facing public health—it is our hope and expectation that the report will have applications and will stimulate interest beyond the Board's efforts to set new priorities for its own work.

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Key Informant Interviews to be Conducted by Board Staff

WA State Nurses Association	Judy Huntington	Executive Director
Association of Washington Health Plans	Kristen A. West	Executive Director
Association of Washington Business	Glen Hudson	VP, Gov't Affairs
Senate Health and Long-Term Care	Pat Thibaudeau	Chair
Senate Health and Long-Term Care	Alex Deccio	Ranking Minority
Senate Health and Long-Term Care	Jonathan Seib	Coordinator/Counsel
Senate Committee on Ways & Means	Lisa Brown	Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means	Randy Hodgins	Sr. Coordinator
House Health Care Committee	Tom Campbell	Co-Chair
House Health Care Committee	Eileen Cody	Co-Chair
House Health Care Committee	Dave Knutson	Research Analyst
House Appropriations Committee	Barry Sehlin	Co-Chair
House Appropriations Committee	Bill Robinson	Coordinator
US House of Representatives (Senior Republican)	Jennifer Dunn	Representative
US House of Representatives (Senior Democrat)	Norm Dicks	Representative
Governor's Health Policy Office	Ree Sailors	Policy Advisor
WA State Hospital Association	Leo Greenawalt	President and CEO
WA Health Care Authority	Sue Crystal	Director
WA Department of Health	Maxine Hayes	Health Officer
WA Department of Social and Health Services	Dennis Braddock	Secretary
WA State Medical Association	Len Eddinger	Dir. Of Health Policy
Association of Washington Cities		
WA Department of Ecology	Tom Fitzsimmons	Director
WA Office of the Sup. Of Public Instruction	Tom Kelly	Dep. Superintendent
WA Office of the Insurance Commissioner	Bill Hagens	Dep. Director
House Democratic Caucus	Jane Beyer	Research Analyst
Senate Republican Caucus	Jonnel Anderson	Research Analyst
WA Assoc. of Local Public Health Officials	Ward Hinds	Chair-elect
Family Policy Council	Laura Porter	Staff Director
Washington State Public Health Association	Linda Jackson	President
Washington Association of Counties	Vickie Kirkpatrick	Executive Director
US Health and Human Services Dept. , Region X		
Centers for Disease Control		
WSALPHO Nursing Directors		
Governor's Health Policy Office	Carol Jolly	Policy Advisor
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs	Kimberly Craven	Executive Director
Senate Environment, Energy and Water	Karen Fraser	Chair
Senate Environment, Energy and Water	Bob Morten	Ranking Minority
Senate Environment, Energy and Water	Richard Rodger	Coordinator/Counsel
House Agriculture & Ecology Committee	Gary Chandler	Co-Chair
House Agriculture & Ecology Committee	Kelli Linville	Co-Chair
House Agriculture & Ecology Committee	Kenneth Hirst	Research Analyst
Commission on Hispanic Affairs	Onofre Contreras	Executive Director
Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs	Miebeth Bustillo-Hutchins	Executive Director
Citizens Action	Barb Flye	Executive Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility	Martin Fleck	Executive Director
WSALPHO Environmental Health Directors	Tanya Busch-Weak	
US Environmental Protection Agency		
U.S. Senate	Patty Murray or Staff	Senator
American Indian Health Commission	Joe Finkbonner	Chair
Commission on African American Affairs	Tony Orange	Executive Director
WA St. Ass. of Comm. and Migrant Health Centers	Gloria Rodriguez	CEO

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TO: Doreen Garcia, Jack Thompson
FROM: Craig McLaughlin
CC: Don Sloma
RE: Inventory of Surveys

Here is what I have accumulated to date. I think the next stage is to assess what holes there are.

Local health assessments

- Communities Count 2000: Social and Health Indicators Across King County
- Snohomish County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Report, December 1999
- Community Health Status Report, Benton County, July 2000
- Washington Health Foundation provides county-by-county assessments on its Web site at www.whf.org. A sample of the Yakima County assessment is included
- King County Health Action Plan, January 2000
- Health assessments are no longer required but a few jurisdictions continue to do them. Christy Spice has copies of all of them at her desk and we have an open invitation to help ourselves and then return them.

Statewide surveys from DOH

- The Health of Washington State: A statewide assessment of health status, health risks, and health systems, September 1996 (A new version is in development but won't be available within our timeframe)
- Annual Communicable Disease Report 1999
- Washington State Vital Statistics 1998
- Washington State Pregnancy & Induced Abortions Statistics 1998
- BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System). Federal data and data standard across states is available on the Web at www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/brfss. DOH has a much more extensive data set. Katrina Wynkoop Simmons has agreed to send me an electronic file with an extensive compilation of charts.
- MCH Division Five-Year Needs Assessment. MCH has spent nine months identifying health priorities based on epidemiological data. The result are not published but I will have access to a draft soon.
- Top Ten Leading Cause of Death to Residents Sorted by 1999 Rank Order, 1990-1999
- For specific epidemiology questions we can use DOH's VISTA/PH database.
- American Indian Health Care Delivery Plan, July 1997
- Washington State Cancer Registry, available on the Web, <http://198.187.0.44/WSCR/>

Statewide surveys from other agencies

- Tobacco, Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Trends in Washington State, DSHS, 2001

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Public Health Improvement Plan Documents

- 2000 Public Health Improvement Plan
- Proposed Standards for Public Health in Washington State, DOH, September 1999

Federal assessments

- Washington 2000 State Health Profile, CDC, DHHS
- America's Children and the Environment: A First View of Available Measures, EPA, December 2000
- Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health, U.S. DHHS, January 2000
- Washington: Burden of Chronic Disease, 1996, Bruden of Chronic Disease by State, Centers for Disease Control
- Public Health Assessments for Washington, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registration, CDC, are on the Web at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/>

NGO/Academic Reports

- The State of Washington's Children, UW School of Public Health and Community Medicine for Kid's Count, Spring 2000
- Transition Report to the New Administration: Strengthening our Public Health Defense Against Environmental Threats, Pew Environmental Health Commission, January 2001
- A World of Difference, Sexual and Reproductive Health Risks, The PAI Report Card 2001, Population Action International
- The Right Start, Child Trends and Kids Count, Washington Profiles and State-by-State Rankings (teen birth, low birthweight, preterm, no prenatal care, unmarried births, etc.)
- Kids Get Care Background Paper, HPAP, December 1999
- Health-Care Policy Board Health Indicators (Doreen will follow up)

Public Opinion Research

- Public Opinion Research on Public Health, Environmental Health and the Country's Health Problems, Pew Charitable Trusts, May 1999
- National Survey of Public Perceptions of Environmental Health Risks, Washington State Component, Princeton Survey Research Associates for Health Track, August 2000
- The Kaiser Family Foundation has a Web-based archive of public opinion survey data on health issues. I ran a search for all questions about the importance of public health issues. The printout is included.
- Harris Poll #60, Public Health, overview by Humphrey Taylor, October 20, 1999
- Public Opinion Surveys on Health Care: A Reference List, Employee Benefit Research Institute, October 1999 (mostly on health care delivery and mostly dated).
- Health Priorities in Washington State: Results from a Telephone Survey of Washington State Residents, Summer 1997
- Survey on Public Health in Snohomish County, Snohomish Health District, March 1998

Popular Press Articles Indicating Media and Public Awareness

- Today's Press, printouts of daily reports from DOH clipping service
- CDC, Diabetes, obesity becoming epidemic, The Olympian, January 26, 2001
- Assorted articles about efforts to limit sale of sodas in the schools
- Coverage about school violence

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